

What's Inside

Committee Business

Toxics In The Home

North Beach/Telegraph Hill Cookbook

Viva North Beach Results

June, 1988

No. 104



TELEGRAPH HILL SEMAPHORE

Publication of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers



by Rodger Zeman

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<i>Planning & Zoning</i>	Deborah Holley, Ron Casentini, Woody Stockwell
<i>Waterfront</i>	Bob Katz, Rod Freebairn-Smith Jeanne Milligan, Herb Kosovitz
<i>Police Liaison</i>	Catherine Donnelly, June Fraps
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<i>Trees</i>	Bob Morrill
<i>Social</i>	Gerry Crowley, Virginia Sletteland
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<i>Transportation</i>	Sheryl Hamlin, Nancy Katz

Committee Gets Cooking

There was the time that June Osterberg's dessert was so flambe that the Fire Department came.

And the time Chris Petropoulos picked olives from Rozell and Peter Overmire's olive tree and made them into Greek olives the way he had done as a boy in Greece.

From the early morning cappuccinos, to the exploration of restaurants with friends, to the nightcaps on Broadway, food tops the list of many North Beach/Telegraph Hill residents' pastimes. They love fantasizing about it, sharing it, and creating it.

The Cookbook Committee wants to capture this flavor of neighborhood cooking in its proposed cookbook. They need recipes, stories of why your dish is so special, and history of food on the Hill. (The Irish rolled beer kegs down the Hill; homemade wine helped save the city from the fire after the earthquake. Any more?)

This cookbook will not only be a collection of recipes, but a leisurely journey through Telegraph Hill/North Beach, meeting its residents, partaking of its gossip, and learning about its past. To produce such a quality work, the committee needs volunteers to gather and taste recipes, research food history, illustrate the book and write it. In addition, it is looking for Dwellers who can offer business advice.

Send the recipes you love to June Fraps, 1941 Stockton, and call her at 392-1187 to volunteer.



Planning and Zoning

Safeway

Paul Gottlober reports the Safeway property at Chestnut and Columbus is for sale, with a value estimated at \$4-5 million. At the March THD Board meeting, the consensus was that THD would oppose a hotel or a high-density project, or any structure above the 40 ft. height limit. A motion was passed to recommend housing for low and moderate income groups, with commercial outlets on the ground floor (within the 40 ft. height limit).

THD, along with other interested parties, wrote a letter to Safeway requesting that in selling the property consideration be given to the needs of the neighborhood, and that there be consultation with the neighborhood associations so that any potential buyer would be aware of those needs.

722 Lombard

Peter Hadiaris of THD, who attended a Planning Commission hearing in early May along with Jim Stevens of North Beach Neighbors, reports that the developer of 722 Lombard has requested a continuance regarding his request for a new permit to allow commercial use on the second story and basement levels. Originally the Planning Department issued the permit exclusively for four residential units (no commercial). As of press time, it is believed this issue will be heard May 26.

Conditional-Use Permits for Restaurants

THD requested that two conditional-use requests for new restaurants - 423 Columbus and 1228 Grant Ave. — be considered in the following circumstances at the May 26 Planning Commission hearing: (1) that too many restaurants already exist in North Beach and (2) vacant restaurant sites are currently



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available. As Deborah Holley has written to the Planning Commission regarding restaurants seeking new conditional-use permits, THD would like to know that "applicants have demonstrated that none of the currently vacant restaurant spaces are feasible."

NorthPoint Shopping Center

A March 25, 1988 Public Works Hearing brought together the NorthPoint developer and local neighborhood groups, including THD, to resolve the street tree preservation issue. All parties agreed to the landscape architect's revised plan for retention of ten of the eighteen trees bordering the Bay St. frontage. The building corner on Mason & Bay Streets will be covered with trellis-supported trumpet vines and the roof level will be enclosed by tall privets. Other sections of the building will also be landscaped to soften its overall appearance.

Responding to concerns of neighborhood groups that the proposed landscaping might deteriorate over time, the developer, Lad Wilsey, agreed to commit to maintain fully all planting throughout the site. The developer promised to send THD a commitment letter outlining the specifics of the maintenance program.

Francisco Street Condos

It was reported at the April Board meeting that the contractor of the new condo project (formerly the Cal Rossi project in which the units are now going for \$645,000 and up) is applying to have Francisco Street (the dead end section above Grant Ave.) closed, except to owners and guests, and that word of the parking proposal is being passed along to potential buyers as an incentive. Paul Gottlober will write a letter to the Planning Commission on behalf of THD opposing any such application for restricted parking.

30-36 Castle Street

In November 1987 the owner of 30-36 Castle was granted a variance to adjust the lot line so that the four units could be divided down the middle and, theoretically sold to two owners, two units each. There was neighborhood concern at the time (expressed at the Variance hearing) about development planned. Because the Owner misrepresented his intentions, the Zoning Administrator found in his decision granting a variance that:

“There would be no physical change to the subject property, except for fire-safety separation required under the Building Code, and no change to the development pattern of this area...no demolition or new construction is proposed.”

The Owner knew this was not the case, since at the time of the hearing he had already filed an application to add a full floor to the existing building.

Somehow, this got through the Planning process and a permit was issued in spite of the above, and the fact that the proposed addition extends well into the required rear yard, includes unapproved fire escapes in the rear yard, and indicates a height in excess of 40' to the roof.

Through the efforts of the neighbors, attorney Sue Hestor and Herb Kosovitz, Bob Passmore revoked the permit (actually two permits, since they filed separately for each half of the building).

Herb Kosovitz



The Greening of Green and Greenwich

Residents of the 400-500 blocks of Greenwich and the 300 block of Green, with the help from the Friends of the Urban Forest and THD planted 35 street trees on these blocks March 19. This is the first tree planting on Telegraph Hill organized through Friends of the Urban Forest. We are sure there will be more such events in the future.

Mayor Agnos helped plant the first tree and enjoyed it so much that he stayed to plant a second. He claimed that the beauty of a neighborhood tree planting gave a positive note to his day ahead of dealing with the budget crisis. Neighbors then organized to plant the remaining trees. After the project 150 tree planters enjoyed a picnic hosted by Mia, Eric, and Bob Morrill.

If you are interested in planting a street tree or organizing planting on your block, please call Mia or Bob Morrill at 982-4850.

Bob Morrill

Preferential Parking Hours

Despite what the signs say, the hours for patrolling, marking, and ticketing cars illegally parked in Area A are really 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. This change was made, says Parking and Traffic Control, because our parking checkers are being re-routed to rush hour patrol at 4:00 pm.

Thus, if you want to report an illegally parked car *after* 4:00 pm, don't call Parking and Traffic Control. Instead, call 553-0123.

Margaret Gwathmey

Abraca Dabra

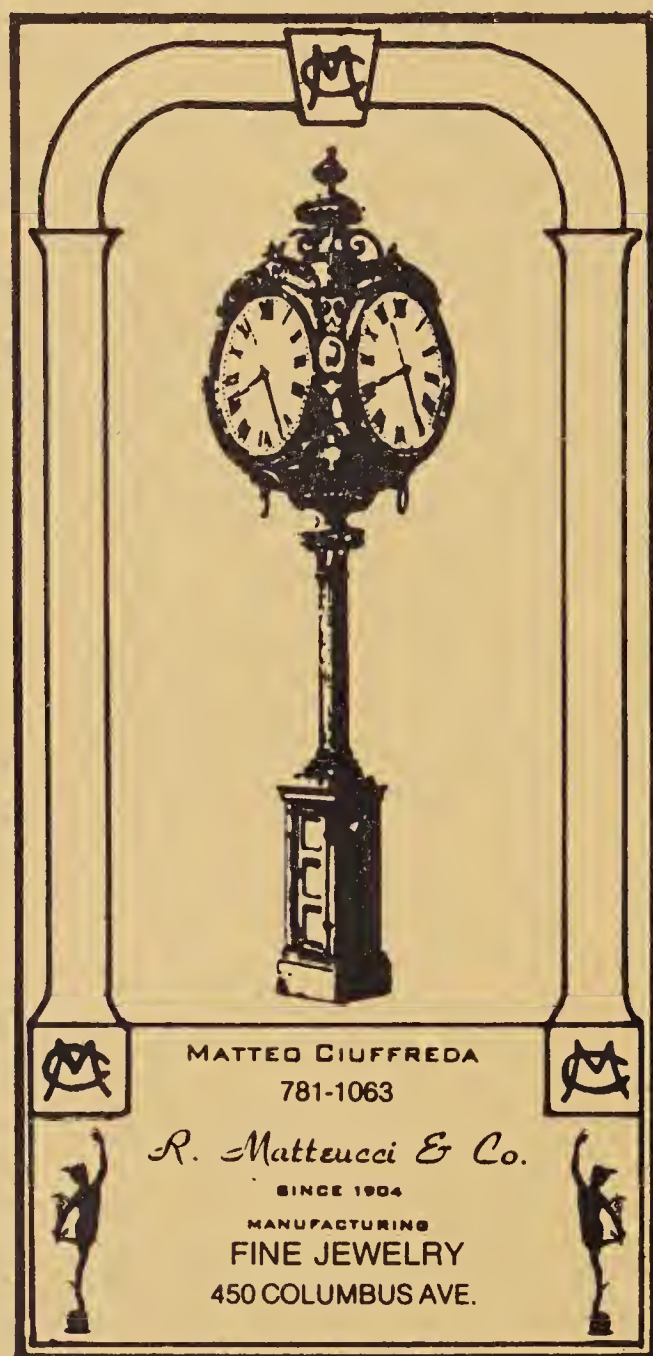
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Business News & Changes

On May 12, 1988, the North Beach Chamber of Commerce held a press conference at Enrico's on Broadway to announce to the media the many changes that are occurring along the exciting strip with the tarnished reputation.

The international new breed investors include three non-profit theater groups: *Donald Pippin's Pocket Opera*, *Dance Through Time* and *Chamberworks*. *The Pocket Opera*, which originated in North Beach, has eagerly returned to its home with, as they put it, a "breath of fresh aria."

Chamberworks is an eclectic group of San Francisco musicians who perform in classical style. *Dance through Time* performs social dances through the centuries—everything from the Sarabande and the Minuet, to the Charleston and the Jitterbug.

The three theater groups have wrested back the *On Broadway Theater* from the punk rockers and the old theater is gradually being restored. The three theater groups are San Francisco institutions to be proud of. Their initial contract is for 10 weeks and their permanence depends upon renegotiation of the contract and audience attendance. So make certain you do your bit to keep them here. We are lucky to have them.

Little Joe's, Broadway's famous sulla griglia style restaurant, has taken over the lease of an adjoining topless club. The space is being transformed into a reception area and cocktail lounge.

The Greek Taverna (Columbus at Broadway) has been sold and is becoming a very contemporary California "fresh" restaurant called *Northern Nights*. A cabaret will also be featured.

Pending resolution of the usage of the upper

stories at 430 Broadway, *The Helmand Restaurant* will serve classic Afghanistan food in elegant naperied surroundings. Owner Mike Karzai owns a similar restaurant in Chicago, which has proven to be very successful. According to Karzai, San Francisco is the only major metropolis without a representation of Afghan food.

Charming Tunisians Hichem Sarouli and Abdullatif Sidia have opened *Mamma Mia*, an Italian (what else) restaurant featuring the thin crust, European style pizza. Hichem is a familiar face in the neighborhood as he worked for quite some time at Pasticci on Columbus.

Mamma Mia is located at 536 Broadway, next door to Columbus Books, and occupies the original space occupied by the very popular New Joe's in the 50s and 60s. *Mamma Mia*'s opening is very significant in that it occupies a commercial space that has been empty for virtually 20-25 years. Even though they are specializing in Italian cuisine, if you are lucky you might turn up trying the restaurant on a night when Chef Marcel is preparing some delicious Tunisian specialties, including Brica, an airy, savory concoction made with phyllo dough.

On Lok Senior Services will operate at 1000 Montgomery, the building that has been the subject of much press and many lawsuits in recent years. In case you don't remember or weren't yet in the neighborhood, 1000 Montgomery was the building where all the residents (many of whom were quite elderly or poor) were evicted about five years ago in an effort by new owners to renovate the building and turn it into upscale law offices. The owners failed and the bank foreclosed. Ironically, the new completely renovated Victorian building is going back to the elderly.

A three-storey mural depicting North Beach/

Chinatown history is nearly complete on the northwest corner of Broadway and Columbus. The building used to be the location of the topless club "El Cid". Owner Giovanni Toracca and his Asian partner's latest plans are for a Chinese bakery and cafe on the ground floor and a western style entertainment facility for the basement club space. The mural's artists are Tony Klaas and Bill Weber (Mirage, Inc.)

Brandy Ho's on Broadway (not yet opened) will be an elegant two-story Hunan restaurant with an indoor waterfall cascading down exposed portions of the rock of Telegraph Hill. Located at 450 Broadway, owner is Brandy Ho, who will continue to operate his other location at 217 Columbus.

Enrico's was recently bought at a bankruptcy hearing by Helen Tam (owner of the Grazie Restaurant on Columbus). Tam's plans include more murals, possibly retailing Enrico's famous pasta and letting Enrico continue to be Enrico.

At 760 Broadway, the *Bangkok Palace* has opened featuring Thai cuisine and Thai dancers. Broadway Pizza formerly occupied the space.

Early in April, *Mo's* opened with great aplomb by giving away 700 of its fantastic burgers to neighborhood residents. A neighborhood bluegrass band—Snooze-U-Looze—played in the street and an actress dressed as a "mo" cow was seen ambling about the neighborhood handing out invitations to the opening. If you haven't indulged in a really fine American burger or milkshake for awhile, check out *Mo's* for an affirmation of some All American treats.

Another great addition to our neighborhood is Tom Lee who operates *Fine Art Studio Framing & Gallery* at 8 Bannam Place.

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Energetic and affable, Lee, who is an artist himself, features works by other artists in his large, well lit gallery space. In addition, he guarantees the lowest prices for his quality framing. And starting May 28, on Saturday nights, Lee will host poetry readings for neighborhood poets. His starting lineup includes Howard Hart and Paul Landry.

At press time, the handsome expansion of *Ristorante Firenze* is all but complete. The popular *Firenze Restaurant* will now feature a full bar and banquet accommodations.

Il Padrino ("the godfather") will soon open at 622 Green. North Beach master waiter, Corrado Di Pietro, (formerly at Firenze and Il Grifone) and masterful chef Alberto Del Cupolo have teamed up with Joe Messina to open their labor of love.

Telegraph Hill resident, Lisa Ambrosini, recently won a contest originated by journalist Bob Zelman. The contest, called the Good Ideas Project for AIDS Funding, was designed to come up with some innovative ways to raise money for AIDS research, education and care for AIDS victims. The winners' creative ideas are being passed on to nearly 50 AIDS organizations in the Bay Area. One of Ambrosini's 19 ideas was to have a Made in San Francisco Film Festival. In June, winners will be honored by Mayor Agnos.

Color consultant Ambrosini runs a business called *Hues: Chroma*. Her services include color and wardrobe consultations for men and women, plus make up/makeovers and natural nail care. If you want to improve your image or make the most of your natural attributes, or simply say how proud we are of her, call Lisa at 981-1189.

Marsha Garland

Planning and Zoning Committee Gears Up for Action

Planning and Zoning Committee met May 19 at the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center. Chairs Deborah Holley and Ron Casentini contacted THD members who had previously volunteered for the committee. Eleven

members attended this meeting. The committee plans to meet the third Wednesday of every month at 7:30 at Tel Hi. If interested, contact Deborah at 392-3569, Ron at 397-1002, or Woody Stockwell at 421-1466.

Viva North Beach Survey Report

Executive Summary

Viva North Beach conducted a survey of residents of and visitors to the North Beach commercial area between October and December of 1987. A total of 327 or 18 percent of the people who received the survey responded (1,699 surveys were distributed by mail and 83 were handed out in person).

The survey's primary goal was to find out what new businesses would be successful in North Beach by collecting information on preferences for different types of retail services in North Beach. The North Beach neighborhood includes the area of San Francisco generally bounded by Broadway on the south, Columbus Avenue on the west, Francisco Street on the north and Grant Avenue on the east. The survey results will be used to attract new neighborhood-serving businesses to North Beach to occupy the substantial amount of vacant commercial space. A secondary goal of the survey was to find out what people like and dislike about North Beach.

The major findings of the survey are as follows:

- The five existing businesses that respondents most frequently patronize include the following (in descending order): restaurants, grocery stores, cafes, delis and bakeries.

- The five new businesses that respondents most want to encourage include the following: 1) theatre/movie house, 2) stationery/office supply store, 3) drugstore, 4) bookstores (new), and 5) bookstores (used).

- The five businesses that respondents want to discourage the most are 1) fast food, 2) savings and loans/banks, 3) chains, 4) restaurants, and 5) pornographic shops.

- When asked what people enjoyed most about North Beach, the majority of the responses referred to North Beach's character. For example, respondents said that they liked a) the Italian flavor and charm, the variety and diversity, and the small town atmosphere of North Beach and b) the location (e.g., convenience, close to downtown) of North Beach.

- When asked what changes they would like to see, respondents most often requested a) cleaner streets and sidewalks, b) more parking and c) less traffic.

2



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Waterfront Committee

Goals for the Coming Year: 1988-1989

The Waterfront Committee will continue to work on planning, zoning, land-use, environmental design, housing, commercial, and economic/social issues in the great foreground that surrounds Telegraph Hill along the Bay's edge. Focus will be on the zone seen by Hill residents, from the Ferry Building to Fort Mason, although some issues arise from as far as the Golden Gate, Alcatraz, and south to China Basin and beyond.

The quality of the environment at Fisherman's Wharf will continue to be one focus of the Committee, and Hill Dwellers who can assist monitor the multiple governmental agencies and private groups with interest in Bayfront lands should please come forward to help. Historic Ship programs, neighborhood social service and housing programs need THD's continued advocacy. The Mayor's current interest in upgrading our passenger ship terminal via Scandinavian investors raises questions of the best location for those ships. In the past, THD has advocated Piers 33-35 for that activity, and will participate in governmental and Port questions regarding the logic of rebuilding.

The Committee proposes to extend THD's long history of protecting public access to the Bay's edge; consideration of modifying the basic legislation underlying Bay access, the MacAteer-Petris Act, will require THD's active vigilance.

The Ferry Building's long neglect, and its surrounding litigation deserves corrective effort from the new city administration, and from the Port. This monument's role as principal architectural ornament at the foot of Market Street requires increased attention and THD advocacy in the year ahead.

A number of other waterfront improvements, not the least of which is public transportation, will come before the Hill Dwellers in the year ahead. Please contact us with your energy and ideas about this important zone, the underlying geography of a great maritime city.

Rod Freebairn-Smith



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After 1990, land disposal (method now employed by state and county) of untreated hazardous waste will be illegal in California. During the month of February the City of San Francisco held workshops on how it plans to manage the disposal of hazardous waste produced within its boundaries. A draft plan was produced and is available for review. This plan contains eight programs which are to be implemented between 1990 and 2000 in San Francisco. Program area number 5, Household Hazardous Waste, will affect residents. The current plan for household disposal requires

each resident to drive to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility near Candlestick Park to dispose of the above items.

Other states in this country and other countries, such as Japan and Sweden, have been piloting various methods of pre-sorting waste as a requirement for household collection. San Francisco considers this type of collection too costly to implement.

This is not only a transportation issue, but an issue which affects the quality of life. If you have ideas, experience, or thoughts on this, please contact Sheryl Hamlin. We would like to have a THD representative on top of this.

The program manager for the city and county of San Francisco is Joseph E. Johnson, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, 289 City Hall, San Francisco 94102.

Sheryl Hamlin

THD Welcomes New Members

Jim Augustino
Geraldine Bailey
Jeff Bailey
Henry Cavigli
Roberta D'Anneo
Earl Diskin
Maureen Dobbins
Sarah Flanagan
Marta Goldstein
Joy Hahn
Linda Hat
Peter Ingram
Loni Johnson
Elaine Kassanos

Raymond Kennedy
Linda Krans
Sondra Levque
Tom Lockard
Alix Marduel
Susan Miles
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Karen Peterson
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Spring



Tree Planting

Photos by Rod Freebairn-Smith



THD SOCIAL NEWS

The Social Committee has begun to formulate plans for the fiscal year which began on April 1, 1988.

A New Members Cocktail Party, planned by Virginia Sletteland, will be held on Sunday, July 17th at Senior Pepe's (formerly P.J. Montgomery's) from 5:30 to 7:30. Senior Pepe's is run by the same management team that ran P.J. Montgomery's.

Saturday, September 24th has been selected as the date for our annual Coit Tower Picnic featuring the pot luck culinary talents of attendees. Music, a raffle and other surprises will also be on the menu. Mark your calendars.

Some suggestions being considered by the committee include block parties, progressive dinner parties, a Columbus Day event and possible entry in the parade, Bay to Breakers participation as well as theatre and concert parties.

The San Francisco Symphony has selected Thursday, September 8th as the "All San Francisco Concert" for neighborhood organizations. Tickets are \$7.00 and the concert will be an early sellout. Maestro Herbert Blomstedt, the San Francisco Symphony's highly acclaimed Music Director, will conduct this exceptional program, which includes Bernstein's "Candide" Overture, Copland's American Folksongs, Ginastera's "Variaciones Concertantes," Falla's Seven Spanish Folksongs, and Ravel's "Bolero." The soloist will be D'Anna Fortunato. If you are interested in attending call Gerry Crowley at 781-4201 by August 1st at the latest. Or, send your check to her at 1808 Grant Avenue.

Hill Dwellers are invited to attend an Evening at the Pops starring Pearl Bailey on Friday, July 29th, 8:00PM at the Civic Auditorium. Seating will be on the main floor at tables of six. Our price will be \$17.00 per person instead of the usual \$23.00. Table cocktail service is available during the performance (we will not be permitted to bring our own wine or liquor). The doors open at 7:00PM. You are encouraged to bring a "sky's the limit" picnic. Tickets are limited, and time is running out so mail your check and ticket requests to Linda Hat by June 25th. Her address is 22 Vandewater, S.F. 94133, tele: 781-7907. Tickets will be claimed, by name, at will-call on the night of the performance.

The Social Committee serves as hosts and hostesses at all THD events. This year we will increase our efforts to introduce members to one another. Our other important function is to plan social events and general membership meetings. We encourage suggestions from all Hill Dwellers. Anyone wishing to serve on the social committee should call Gerry Crowley at 781-4201 or 445-5539 (office).

Gerry Crowley

“The Issues Commodore Raises Have No Merit At All” (California Court of Appeal)

San Francisco's Masterplan for the NE Waterfront prohibits heliports. So does the Fisherman's Wharf Action Plan in any part of the Wharf area.

Heliports require a conditional use permit. Commodore sightseeing helicopters at Pier 43 operate without it. On 10/13/83, the Planning Commission denied Commodore's application as contrary to the Masterplan. An appeal was rejected by the Supervisors on 7/30/84. Heliports along the waterfront also require a BCDC permit. No such permit exists. According to a BCDC staff memo of 1984, the heliport at Pier 43 “is in violation of the McAteer-Petris Act”.

Art. 27 of Commodore's lease with the Port reads: “Tenant will, upon expiration...of this lease peaceably and quietly leave.” The lease expired on 9/30/85. Commodore refused to leave. The frequency of two sightseeing Bell Jet Ranger copters taking off and landing every few minutes at Pier 43 and flying along the waterfront generated a serious noise pollution, exacerbated by reflection from the surrounding hills. Among the neighborhood organizations that for years protested this intrusion on residential areas and demanded enforcement of the Masterplan are: THD, Russian Hill Improvement Assn., Russian Hill Neighbors, Marina Civic Improvement Assn., SF Coalition of Neighborhoods, People For A Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Sierra Club (SF Chapter) and San Francisco Tomorrow.

Another vital factor was safety. In September 1987, a chartered Commodore Bell Jet Ranger helicopter slammed into power lines in Vallejo, near a housing development, killing the pilot

and two PG&E employees. In May of this year, the same type of sightseeing helicopter crashed into New York's East River, minutes from its Manhattan heliport. Five people were injured, one critically. What would such an accident do to congested Fisherman's Wharf?

Ever since expiration of its lease, 2½ years ago, Commodore has kept its eviction by the Port in litigation, culminating in the Appellate Court's decision quoted above. The Court also ordered sanctions of \$2,000 “for persecuting a frivolous appeal” and awarded the City recovery of appeal's costs.

On May 11, Commodore petitioned the Port Commission for support and still further delay in enforcement of the Court decision. Port staff noted that Commodore's request was contrary to the City's Masterplan and questioned the Commission's legal authority to permit it. The Commission refused the request 4:1. Commissioner Herman, who previously opposed a heliport below Potrero Hill, was the lone dissenter.

The only support for the helicopters came from a well orchestrated contingent from Fisherman's Wharf, many of whom were bused to the hearing. For over two decades, THD has actively supported Fisherman's Wharf, particularly efforts to revitalize the fishing and maritime industries (new breakwater, Fisheries Institute, alternatives for Pier 45, the Cruise Ship Terminal, retaining the BALCLUTHA at Pier 43, etc.). We are continuing our support of the Wharf business community and hope for a better understanding of our residential needs. The recent Mayoral election signaled a strong mandate for liveable neighborhoods. Together we must support the enforcement of land-use laws such as the City's Masterplan and the SF Bay

McAteer-Petris Act. They are essential to all of us if we don't want to lose our hard-won height limits, open space, pollution controls, Bay protection and many other benefits achieved by citizens' consensus over the years.

As this issue goes to press, the Sheriff's Office evicted Commodore Helicopters from Pier 43, pursuant to a Court order.

Bob Katz

Parks and Open Space Committee Goals for the Coming Year

The Parks and Open Space Committee proposes a fresh look at programs underway, and at current projects within THD's boundaries. We'll also look at projects nearby affecting residents and members that THD would like to support. In the year ahead, the Committee hopes to:

1. Hear from all of you who are interested in extending and improving public open space on the Hill and nearby, and to have your help with various efforts ahead.
2. Help us inventory current projects and identify sites for future opportunities.
3. Find new and stimulate known funding sources for the maintenance of existing, and for new, greenspace.
4. Review "neglected maintenance" and seek its funding and correction.
5. Try some fresh open space planning ideas, perhaps sponsor a design competition among neighborhood architectural, design, and landscape firms to design and build one or more new projects in the year ahead.

We hope you will join us.

*Rod Freebairn-Smith, Jeanne Millegan
Co-Chairs*



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New THD Board Members

Five new members have joined the THD Board.

Environmental planning consultant Deborah Holley caps two years of planning and zoning activity for THD with her directorship on the Board. As co-chair of the Planning and Zoning committee, Deborah wants to get more THD members involved in planning issues. In addition, she continues to work on the Viva North Beach project which is attempting to bring new life into the area by attracting small businesses. The Orange County native likes tennis, ballet, and escaping to the country on weekends. A special interest is childcare relating to planning matters.

Claire DeMartini's roots are deep in Telegraph Hill/North Beach. Her grandfather built some of the houses still standing on the Hill. As membership secretary Claire is interested in responsible development on Telegraph Hill. "It's a special area," she says. "That character should be preserved." The photographer is an animal lover and can often be spotted walking her dog.

Ron Casentini brings his experience in financial management to the Board. Ron is serving as both a director and co-chair of the Planning and Zoning Committee. A native of San Francisco, Ron has been the vice president of finance for a number of companies in Santa Clara Valley. He is concerned with preserving "the unique character and historic flavor" of the neighborhood. "It's a sensitive area," he says. "We have to be careful about what happens to it." Ron enjoys the outdoors and likes to walk his dog around the neighborhood.

June Fraps has been a member of THD since 1965. She has chaired the crime committee and organized the raffle at last year's picnic. June is now chairperson of the Police

Community Relations Board. In addition, the indomitable June is now chairing the Cookbook Committee. (See page 3.)

The Philadelphia native has worked as copy editor, advertising copy writer, and account supervisor. In her free time she has taken the City Guides course and will soon be giving Gold Rush tours.

Treasurer Maude Hallin brings her CPA skills to the Board. In addition, as one who is "constantly remodeling" her home, Maude has had much experience in dealing with city agencies. Born in Sweden, Maude lived in Spain before coming to the U.S. She settled on the Hill because "I could make my Spanish semi-understood" and because of its Mediterranean cooking. Hobbies include travel (to Central and South America), the arts, and sailing.


Planners and Zoners Please Apply

THD is updating its directory of members wishing to assist in planning and zoning activities. All backgrounds and interests welcome. Please apply. Call Deborah Holley, 392-3569, or Ron Casentini, 397-1002.

A Sad Second Anniversary

The old Malvina's on Union Street stands empty two years after the cafe was forced to leave because of a huge jump in rent. A window has broken and been replaced with plywood. A determined neighborhood philosopher regularly scrawls in soap musings on greed on the windows. His thoughts are the only sign of life in the deserted building. His last offering was "Greed has its own rewards."

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President's Message

Those of you who have worked on a THD committee know how much time and effort committee chairs devote to the work of their committees. Sometimes the work of a committee culminates in a proposal to the THD Board and the task of educating the Board usually falls on the committee chairperson who needs to present a motion for the Board's approval. If you have attended a Board meeting, you know just how much work that can be. In an effort to "spread the wealth," we have decided to make some changes in the committee/Board relationship which we hope will ease the burden for many of our hard-working volunteers.

Instead of having a single chairperson, each committee now has two chairs who have shared responsibility for the work of each committee. In all cases, at least one of the chairpersons is either a Board officer or director. While this will undoubtedly increase the Board members' work, it will serve, I believe, to make everyone's job easier in the long run. Since Board members are required to attend our monthly Board meetings, while attendance is voluntary for committee chairs, the Board can have regular briefings as a project progresses and the decision-making process can be more efficient.

Another change which we have instituted requires that anyone who wants to present something for THD action do so in writing and in advance. Ideally, we would like Board members to have a chance to read material and think about important issues before they have to vote on them. To do this, we are asking that a one page briefing document be prepared and sent to the corresponding secretary for inclusion in the monthly Board meeting's agenda which is prepared one week

prior to the scheduled meeting. The briefing document should include a statement of the issue, appropriate citations, a historic perspective (if appropriate), the pros and cons and some recommended course of action. Hopefully, this process will not be too burdensome and will increase THD's efficiency and ability to make decisions in the most enlightened environment possible.

If any of you have comments on these changes or any suggestions that you feel would improve our organization, please let me or any of the Board members know. We are always looking for better ways to get the THD job done, and always welcome your input.

Paul Gottlober

Transportation

The correlation between the high quality of life in the Telegraph Hill/North Beach area and the proximity of services, schools and culture is not an accident.

As a THD entity, "transportation" is not a committee or an event, but a continual awareness, which should affect every decision about our neighborhood.

As a neighborhood we would like to provide our input to the city leaders about MUNI, parking garages, parking stickers, meters, tourists, and hotels.

However, we need to advise municipal entities not from an isolationist or protectionist platform, but from the perspective of maintaining the character of the neighborhood which has been and should continue to be home for people of different ages and color.

We need watchdogs who can attend hearings and meetings which are generally scheduled during the day. Co-chair of transportation issues are Sheryl Hamlin and Nancy Katz.

Sheryl Hamlin

Bureau of Inspection Hot Line Numbers

The Bureau of Building Inspection has 2 "hot line" numbers to phone in complaints regarding work without a permit and other dangerous or illegal construction activities.

The 24 hour emergency phone number for the Department of Public Works is 695-2020. The number is manned 24 hours a day.

There is also a "Voice Mailbox" phone answering system, where callers can leave their messages 24 hours any day. That phone number is 330-7838. This phone is checked for messages randomly on weekends, and every weekday morning by the Public Services Division of the Bureau of Building Inspection.

The callers need not identify themselves unless they would like a return call on the results of the inspection.

As always, complaints can be registered by calling 558-6088 during working hours Monday through Friday or by calling the appropriate Bureau division.

Should you have any further questions, please call the Public Services Division of the Bureau of Building Inspection at 558-6088.

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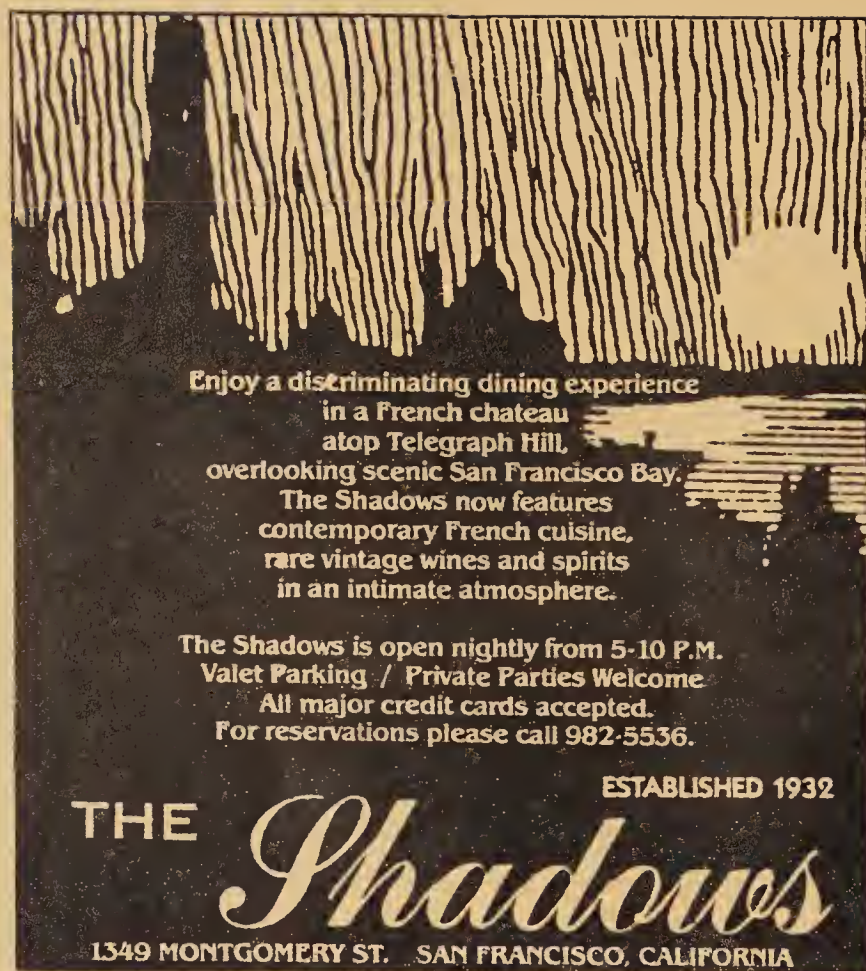
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A Remnant of THD Early Days

Does anybody recognize this?

The clues in this minor mystery are that (1) it's on the windshield of an elderly sports car, (2) it's the top of Coit Tower that is missing, and (3) it dates back at least 25 years.

Give up?

All right: it is the tattered remains of a THD decal still clinging to the lower right corner of the windshield of June Osterberg's 33-year-old Triumph TR2. Long-time Dwellers will remember that many Telegraph Hill cars carried these emblems in the early '60s.

They were not just badges but were a signal to the police patrols that the autos that wore them belonged to local residents. Members blithely affixed them in the fond hope that they would avoid tickets for parking at Coit Tower and other regulated spots on The Hill.

June did not get a ticket while living six years in the 300 block of Filbert Street and wonders if there is anyone else who can report a similar phenomenon.

Yes, the windshield has been washed very carefully all these years. And yes, the car has borne an 'A' sticker ever since the advent of preferential parking.

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Board of Directors' Report

Motions Passed

March

That THD recommend that less than half the trees in front of North Point Shopping Centre be removed and that Maggie Baylis' plan be followed as closely as possible.

That THD support the original permit at 722 Lombard for basement storage, ground floor parking, and four units on second, third, and fourth floors. (The developer has applied for a second permit to allow commercial units on the first and second floors.)

That the Cookbook Committee continue its research on producing a Telegraph Hill/North Beach cookbook.

April

That a conditional use permit for a restaurant next to Puccini on Columbus between Vallejo and Green should include prohibition of a white zone and valet parking.

To send a letter to the Department of Forestry suggesting that a tree on the 1400 block of Montgomery be trimmed rather than cut down.

May

To oppose conditional use permits for restaurants at 423 Columbus and 1228 Grant unless applicants have demonstrated none of presently empty restaurant sites are suitable for occupancy.

To contribute \$50 for duplicating and distributing North Beach business survey.

Motions Denied

May

To support Prop. L.



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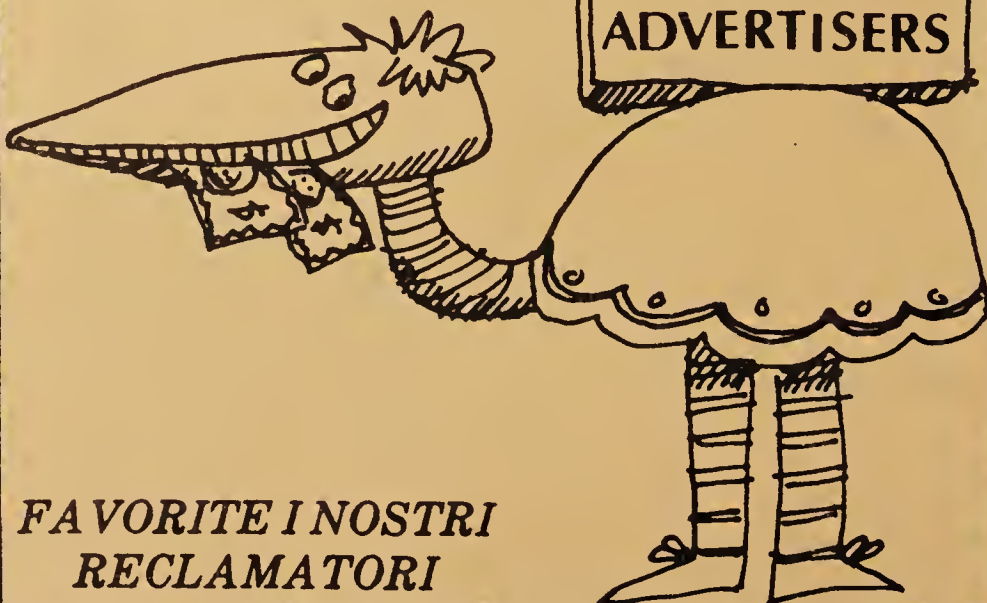
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Meet Your Neighbor

Fortuitously, the year before the earthquake his grandfather moved from San Francisco to Berkeley. His mother was born there and so was Peter Overmire. While working toward a Masters in chemical engineering from UC, Overmire took a summer job at Wells Fargo. He stayed there for 37 years, eventually becoming vice president in Strategic Planning. He is now vice president of Diversified Corporate Loans, Inc., located on Battery Street.

A resident of the Hill, this means he walks to and from his office, a cinch, for sure, given that Overmire is also "a mountaineer." The Boy Scouts got him started. Not particularly interested in some aspects of that organization, Overmire early discovered the pleasures of backpacking and hiking in the Sierra.

On April 21, 1964 "at 2:31 p.m.," Overmire, while planning a ski-climb up Mt. Shasta, reached for a cigarette, and didn't find one. Panicked (smokers will understand this), he got up from his desk to go out and buy a pack when he noticed a lit cigarette in his ash tray. He hasn't smoked since.

Good thing! For in 1969 he discovered Asia, most particularly he discovered Afghanistan, Japan, India, Nepal and Tibet, in that order. (He has learned enough Nepali, Tibetan, Japanese and Dari to talk the necessary practicalities.)

In 1985 Overmire journeyed to Kang Rimpoche, or Mt. Kailas, a 22,000 foot Himalayan mountain sacred to Hindu and Buddhist religions, located in remote western Tibet. (Brought up with no strong religious beliefs, he is deeply impressed with the Buddhists, a people who do not make war.) With a small group of Bay Area trekking friends and a special permit, Overmire made the sacred, traditional circumambulation of the base of Kang Rimpoche. This three-day trek of 32 miles (after 6 days on dirt roads in a Chinese Army truck) included elevations as high as

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18,600 feet and the viewing of religious shrines and sacred artifacts. Permission for his unique journey to "the soul of Tibet" was granted by the Chinese regime that had conquered Tibet in 1950 - no westerner had been there in 35 years and only a handful in 300 years. Overmire, concerned that Tibetans might view this trip as a trespass, paid a visit to the exiled Dalai Lama at his palace in northern India. There the Dalai Lama reassured Overmire that his circumambulation had not "violated the sacred land."

How do you progress from the Boy Scouts to Kang Rimpoche? The challenges of back-packing and hiking soon become the challenges of leading groups of 12-20 people (largely through the Sierra Club) not only into the Sierra but into the mountains of Mexico, Canada and Asia. The Himalayas offer the greatest challenge.

As leader of the mountain-climbing trips, a role which includes among other things, a willingness and talent for taking responsibility, Peter Overmire, a gracious, articulate and reserved man, also discovered that trekking can be more than a physical challenge: he has extensive notes on troubled Tibet.

As vice president of a small firm which assists major banks in their search for loan diversification, Overmire is currently unable to allocate time to writing about Tibet. He is, however, a member of the American Himalayan Foundation, and a number of other groups supporting Tibetan rights and interested in health and education.

Overmire, who was Treasurer of THD these last two years, has lived on the Hill since 1975. He and his wife Rozell, are currently "camping out" since their house is undergoing remodelling. One thing they needed was more room for their books.

Given his interesting experiences I hope one day he writes a book of his own. Given his energy and his love of Tibet, he probably will.

John D. Dolan

Crime Statistics, Telegraph Hill 1988 vs. 1987

TYPE	Jan. 1987	April 1988
Homicide	0	0
Rape	1	1
Robbery	4	18
Assault	40	29
Burglary	35	49
Theft	119	98
Auto Theft	33	57
Other	207	166
TOTAL	439	418
TOTAL MAJOR*	232	252

*Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Assault, Burglary, Grand/Petty Theft, Auto Theft, Purse Snatch

Total crime is down 5 percent for the period, though major crime is up over 8 percent. The biggest increases for the period are in robbery, burglary and auto theft.

We have been told that the auto theft detail is among a number of police units which have been diverted to help with the problems with narcotics (crack) in other areas of the city. Hill dwellers should be reminded again to lock their cars every time they park on the street.

Catherine Donnelly

North Beach Neighbor's Patrick Bastian Dead at 44

North Beach Neighbors, THD's sister organization, is grieving the loss of board member Patrick Bastian. Bastian, 44, had been on the board for one year and was well known for his efforts on behalf of the 100 victims of the Entrella Hotel fire, which occurred last July. A memorial tree will be planted in the soon-to-be-landscaped new Michelangelo Park on Greenwich Street between Jones and Leavenworth. Bastian's close friend, Marsha Garland, is handling the collection for the memorial tree. If you care to contribute, please contact her at 673-3228.

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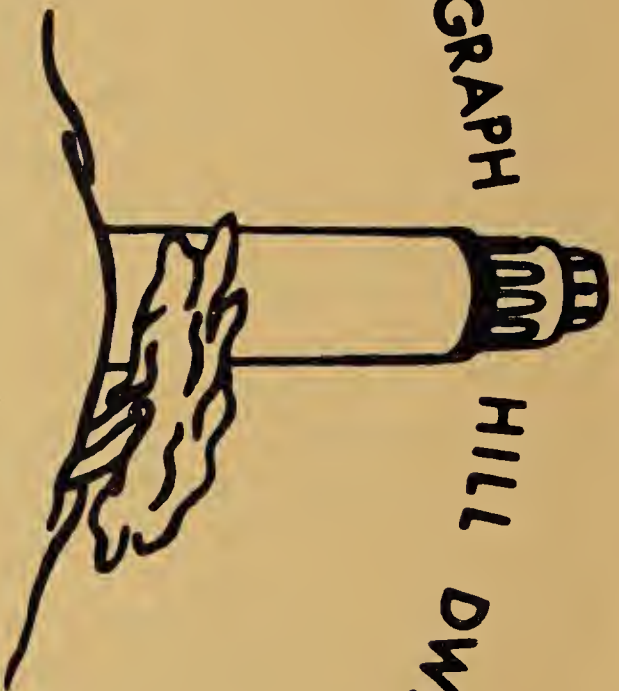
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